

Idaho's children are of particular interest to Kirk. He has used his education and business experience to act as a tremendous resource to our children, from elementary school to the university level.

As an active member of the Business Week Foundation, Kirk served as a mentor to Idaho high school students eager to learn how business operates and how to be successful in the workplace.

As the founder of the Bishop Kelly Foundation, Kirk raised money for Boise's private high school.

Kirk has not just played a supporting role in those ventures, nor in others. When Kirk sets out to do something, he takes charge. He actively raised money for the Children's Home Society of Idaho, he is leading a \$500,000 fund drive for the Boise Master Chorale, and he raises funds for the University of Idaho.

Kirk's boundless energy is contagious. I have seen him take on so many different issues and set lofty goals. He doesn't know the word "no." When he's asked to do something, it is always "yes." I've seen him gather some of the very talented people in the state of Idaho and tackle some of these major projects and come up with major results. It is so invigorating to see how he weaves our magic.

In fact, even though Kirk Sullivan is not an alumnus of the University of Idaho, he has received the school's Presidential Citation for giving to the University and its community.

I must add, Mr. President, that the University of Idaho is not the only beneficiary of Kirk Sullivan's efforts and enthusiasm. He has served as President of the Bronco Athletic Association at Boise State University and is currently a member of the Commission on the Future of Clemson University, his alma mater. He also is on Clemson's College of Engineering and Science Leadership Committee, with a fundraising goal of \$100 million.

So you can see, Mr. President, that Kirk and his wife, Betty, are valuable assets and cherished members of our community.

While Kirk is retiring, I'm confident in the knowledge that his good works and commitment to his state will never wane. Idaho is a much better place because of the dedication and tireless efforts of Kirk Sullivan.

I take pride in congratulating him today, and I know all Idahoans salute him.●

IOWA'S BILL FITCH

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, our former colleague, Senator John Culver of Iowa, brought to my attention an article, which recently appeared in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, about Bill Fitch. Mr. Fitch was an outstanding athlete when he attended Cedar Rapids' Wilson High School and, also, during his college years at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. Later on, Mr. Fitch coached at Coe

College, Creighton University (where he coached Bob Gibson, the famous baseball pitcher), and North Dakota (where he coached Phil Jackson, now coach of the Chicago Bulls). He won the 1981 NBA title as the Boston Celtics' coach with Larry Bird. He coached in the NBA for 25 years and was the only person to coach 2,000 regular-season games and his 944 wins ranked second only to NBA coach Lenny Wilkens. I am grateful to Mike Hlas of the Cedar Rapids Gazette for writing this column about one of Iowa's great athletes, and I am thankful to my friend, Senator John Culver, for bringing it to my attention.

At this point, I ask that Mr. Hlas' article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From The Gazette, Apr. 22, 1998]

C.R.'S FITCH A BIG WINNER

(By Mike Hlas)

No one will ever put a sign at Cedar Rapids' city limits proclaiming it the hometown of the NBA's all-time losingest coach.

That's good. Bill Fitch, who attended Wilson back when it was a high school and coached at Coe, deserves respect.

You don't last long enough to lose 1,106 times unless you were good. You don't become the only coach in NBA history to coach 2,050 times in the regular season unless you were good.

Fitch, fired by the Los Angeles Clippers Monday at age 63, was good.

But as Casey Stengel once said, I managed good, they just played bad.

Perhaps none of Fitch's 25 NBA squads was as bad as the 1997-98 Clippers, who won 17 and lost 65, and did so without a hint of style.

It didn't even feel this rotten for Fitch in 1970, when he and the Cleveland Cavaliers spent their first years in the NBA together. The original Cavs were so bad they were unaffectionately nicknamed the Cadavers. Somehow, Fitch kept a sense of humor and his sanity.

By the time Fitch's nine-year engagement closed in Cleveland, the Cavs had made the playoffs three times.

As the years passed, Cedar Rapids could take more and more pride in calling Fitch a homeboy. Especially when NBA coaching legend Red Auerbach, then a general manager—brought him to Boston to coach the then-stale Celtics.

When surrounded by people who could play the game better than anyone, Fitch turned out to be quite a coach. He had three consecutive 60-game winners in Boston, and won the NBA title in 1981 with young Larry Bird.

Houston was Fitch's next stop. The Rockets had four winning seasons in five years under Fitch, and once reached the NBA finals, only to lose to Bird's Celtics.

The NBA's heights were great, but Fitch was one of the few coaches who could survive in its depths. His last seven teams were in New Jersey and Los Angeles, where talent was inadequate. Last year, though, he did lead a very young Clipper club to the playoffs.

The promise gave way to a nightmare season. A very good player (Bo Outlaw) left as a free agent, and another star (Loy Vaught) missed most of the year with a bad back.

So the coach got fired because he's 63 years old, because his players supposedly began to tune him out, and because the Clippers are about to move into a big new arena in downtown Los Angeles and want a sharper image.

Fitch, who had worked with Bird and Kevin McHale and Moses Malone, was sur-

rounded in his final season with youngsters who had never won a thing in the NBA. They were tuning him out? He should have turned them out.

For anyone to endure four years with the Clipper's and 25 seasons in the NBA as a coach is semi-amazing. If meddling management isn't giving you a headache, some underachieving knucklehead player is giving you heartache.

You need a cast-iron stomach to coach in the NBA for 25 years. To be the only person to coach 2,000 regular-season games in the league tells how highly regarded Fitch was held. His 944 wins rank second only to Lenny Wilkens. It is something worth honoring.

As any coach will tell you, losing one game tears you apart. To drop 1,106 and keep plugging is wonderful.

"It's depressing," Fitch said about this season, days before he was fired. "But it's also one that makes you want to say, 'Never again.' We'll get it going in the right direction again."

If you spend four years with the Bad News Clippers and can still say a thing like that, you are a winner for the ages.●

CAPITAL GAINS TAX CUT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to support the Majority Leader's legislation, S. 2214, reducing the top capital gains tax rate from 20 to 15 percent, and reducing from 18 to 12 months the holding period required on capital gains.

Mr. President, this legislation is good news for the economy, and it is good news for America's working families.

Ours is a global economy, Mr. President. And in my view it is crucial, if we want to continue enjoying our current prosperity, that we do more to maintain our competitive edge. Even with last year's capital gains tax cut, at 20 percent America's long term capital gains tax rate remains among the industrialized world's highest. Further, countries like Australia and the United Kingdom, which have higher rates, also allow taxpayers to index the cost of the asset on which they make gains.

We pay a high price for our high capital gains tax, Mr. President. As Stanford Dean John B. Shoven points out, higher capital gains rates increase the cost of investing in capital and equipment. As a percentage of Gross National Product, the United States invested less in nonresidential projects from 1973 to 1992 than any of our major competitors. And investment in plant and equipment has fallen to only half the level of the 1960's and 1970's.

Without updated plant and equipment, productivity lags and we cannot compete with other nations. Lowered capital gains taxes would directly address this problem. National Council of Policy Assessment Senior Fellows Gary and Aldona Robbins predicted, before last year's reduction in the top capital gains tax rate, that a cut of 50 percent in that rate, to 14 percent, would lower the cost of capital by 5 percent. This would induce investors to increase the capital stock by \$2.2 trillion in 5 years. And that larger stock of capital would create 721,000 new jobs and increase GDP cumulatively by almost \$1 trillion.